

YULETIDE GIFTS BRING COMFORT TO THOUSANDS

City's Deserving Poor Remembered With Huge Dinners and Hampers of Food.

HOSPITALS ARE VISITED

Shut In Children and Disabled Soldiers Share in Holiday Bounty.

TREE OF LIGHT ABLAZE

Shoppers in Madison Square See Giant Spruce Shed Gleams of Cheer.

Two crippled men, both gray haired and their faces seamed and weather beaten, ate a whole mince pie apiece for their Christmas dinner yesterday. That constituted their only holiday fare, but they enjoyed it as much as if it had been a six course meal. They were the last comers at the Greater New York Philanthropic Society's free Christmas dinner, which was served from 9 o'clock in the morning until 3 in the afternoon at 37 City Hall place.

"Taint our fault," volunteered one of the cripples. "You see, Cap'n," addressing the man in charge of the serving, "me and me pal there was here early enough to get a square meal, but we just couldn't stand so long. That's why we was late. Anything left?" he inquired anxiously.

"Only these," answered the one in charge, shoving on the counter a couple of rich mince pies. "But you and your pal can eat it."

"Ken we eat it? Oh, boy; watch now!" And the pair fell to with a degree of enthusiasm that mere labor never inspires.

Those who arrived earlier had a lot more to eat. The Christmas menu, for which no charge was made, included roast pork with dressing, mashed potatoes, mashed turnips, apple sauce, coffee with cream and sugar and half a mince pie.

Hunger Line of Women.
A few blocks further east and a little to the north, across the Bowery, was another big Christmas dinner line, but this one was composed almost entirely of women. At 34 Cherry street the Salvation Army, having been informed that address, began giving out some of its more than 4,000 Christmas baskets, which brought comfort and happiness to many poor homes.

According to Staff Captain Florence Dean, who has been in charge of the branch for one week, 567 baskets, brimful of goodies and supplying the only Christmas cheer to practically that number of households, were passed out by Salvation Army members during the hours between 9 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon.

Mothers, children and a few fathers stood three deep in the line, which at times extended to New Chambers street. And most of them looked worn and weary, according to Staff Captain Dean. Each basket contained a box of rice, a chicken, a can of tomatoes, peas, corn and milk, some coffee, sugar, a Christmas card and a book of Psalms.

Each one was duplicated in practically every detail in half a dozen other centers, all of which were visited by Commander Evangelist Booth. The distributing started at 9:30 A. M. at the Salvation Army station at 125 East 125th street, and an hour later at the branch at 218 East 107th street. At Cooper square the distributing started at 11:30 and at the Astor place branch, at 1:30 P. M. Baskets were distributed at the States Island station in the evening.

Dinners for Service Men.
The American Committee for Devastated France gave fifty homeless former service men, all of them wounded or gassed, a Christmas dinner at 16 East Thirty-ninth street. Army ward they were entertained with two film comedies, music and vaudeville numbers. They had a big Christmas tree brilliantly lighted. The dinner consisted of turkey, roast beef, rice, ice cream, with the usual vegetables.

The children in the wards of St. Vincent's Hospital received toys and dolls, the physicians playing the role of Santa Claus to more than 100 of these little patients. Sixty children in the New York Hospital enjoyed a tree, and many of the other hospitals will have today Christmas morning carols and sing their relatives at the homes for those who can partake of the holiday fare.

John McE. Bowman, manager of the Commodore Hotel, entertained at luncheon nearly 1,000 disabled soldiers and their relatives at the hotel. The Stage Women's War Relief provided a programme of entertainment to follow the luncheon. Marie Nordstrom and Dorothy Kenton made speeches.

The Knights of Columbus distributed 2,500 boxes of candy and as many others containing comforts to men in the military hospitals on Staten Island and in Manhattan. Supreme Secretary William J. McGinley announced that 2,000 councils of the K. of C. provided Christmas cheer for 10,000 inmates of orphanages in the United States and Canada.

More than 1,400 defective children in the Randall's Island Hospital had a Christmas entertainment, after which Commissioner Coker, assisted by Mr. Duane and Mr. Richards, gave each child a stocking filled with candy and toys donated by the pupils of the Morris High School, Theodore Roosevelt School and annex and the Stuyvesant High School.

At the city's home for the aged more than 2,000 men and women were the recipients of Yuletide cheer. Each woman received a package of tea, some candy and sugar, a dressing sack and a woollen shawl. Each old man received a pipe and tobacco, candy and clothing.

Light which last night blazed forth in its accustomed spot in Madison Square Park and gave joy to hundreds of homeless ones and others who have grown to love the community celebration of Christ's birth.

Christmas shoppers hurrying home and others in that district saw the huge spruce tree break into a thousand points of red, white and blue lights at 5:30 yesterday evening. That marked the beginning of the community tree celebration, which continues through next week. At 8 P. M. a programme of music announced the formal opening of the holiday festival, with Harry Barnhart conducting the New York Christmas Chorus.

Carols at St. Paul's.
Rows of white robed choir boys, grouped about a crucifix, and four young women trumpeters in cassock and cotta appeared yesterday through the portals of St. Paul's, announced to passersby that the annual Christmas eve carol service, started over so long ago, was again taking place.

More than 3,000 employees of the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, the Western Union, the Western Electric and the 195 Broadway Corporation took part in a community sing at the Broadway address. Many of the employees stopped to join in the singing of the ancient Christmas carols. The practice of distributing Christmas gifts each year to children of the East Side, inaugurated years ago by the late Simon Steingut, "Mayor of Second Avenue," was continued yesterday by the mayor's son, Irwin Steingut.

NO CONGESTION IN CHRISTMAS MAIL

Public Sends Gift Packages Earlier Than Usual.

A report was sent last night to the Post Office Department at Washington from the New York (general) Post Office that Christmas week this year has been "the most extraordinary in eleven years in the quick and satisfactory handling of the mail in Manhattan and the Bronx." The usual lack of congestion was attributed by D. G. Jordan, assistant superintendent of mail, to a ready response of the public to requests to mail gifts and Christmas letters early, to uninterrupted railway service, owing to excellent weather conditions, and a smooth working plan of handling holiday mail here.

The truck platform where mail is received at the Pennsylvania Station was entirely free of mail at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon as a result of quick handling, and the same was true of the Grand Central mail platform and baggage rooms. Thomas J. Clarke, superintendent of the General Post Office, reported that conditions at 8 o'clock were practically normal. The increased force that has been at work this week was retained, however, to sort mail for the two morning deliveries to-day.

Because of the generous giving of food and clothing to starving Europe there was a heavy increase this year in shipments of foreign mail. Post office officials reported that most of the parcel post packages destined for Germany contained foodstuffs, while more clothing than anything else went to Poland.

COP RESCUES CHILDREN AT CHRISTMAS TREE FIRE

Mother Escapes After Trying to Stop \$30,000 Blaze.

Two apartment buildings at 5211 and 5213 New Utrecht avenue, Brooklyn, were partly damaged by fire yesterday afternoon as a result of the Christmas preparations of Mrs. Isabelle Reasch, who lives with her four children on the top floor of 5211. She had just finished setting the Christmas tree, and had called the children in to see it, when the branches caught fire and the flames swept the room.

Mrs. Reasch tried to beat out the flames, and falling, ran down to the street for aid. A policeman ordered her to remain outside, and ran up and rescued the children. Other tenants escaped safely. The flames spread to the adjoining building and caused damage in all estimated at \$30,000. Two stores on the first floor of each of the buildings were slightly damaged.

While working on the roof of one of the houses Fireman John Bodda of Engine 125 was overcome. He was sent to Norwegian Hospital.

MONTCLAIR GOLF CLUB TO REWARD CADDIES

Will Present Gifts to Them at Tree Celebration.

The hundred odd lads who serve the Montclair Golf Club as caddies are to be the guests of that organization at a Christmas tree in the main room of the clubhouse at 11 o'clock to-day. A hot Christmas breakfast will be served, and many of the members and their families will be present to aid in dispensing Christmas cheer. Each caddy will receive a wool sweater, identical with those worn by his regular employer, a pair of woolen stockings, woolen gloves, an order for a pair of stout shoes at a Newark shoe store, a tin box of candy and a basket of fruit.

Percey Johnston, former president and a member of the board of governors, and W. L. Conwell, vice president of the club, form the committee which has arranged the Christmas tree. Mr. Johnston said yesterday he hoped the idea would spread to the remaining 125 golf clubs in the metropolitan area. It is estimated that there are 150,000 boys from 12 to 16 years old who are caddies about New York, and Mr. Johnston feels that the clubs can do much to make good citizens out of them. In furtherance of this idea the Montclair Golf Club has engaged the services of a trained Y. M. C. A. worker who directs games and other healthful activities for the youngsters.

WALDORF FIRE FAILS TO BREAK UP PARTY

Merriment Continues While Flames Are Fought.

A Christmas party in the myrtle room of the Waldorf-Astoria went on merrily last night despite a trickling of water through the ceiling on the dance floor and a strong odor of smoke. It was a private party, and although those in charge of the entertainment were notified, as was everybody else in the hotel, that there was a "slight fire on the second floor," they declined to be disturbed.

Outside the hotel, however, the presence of fire apparatus drew a large crowd. Employees of the hotel had failed to conquer the flames. Deputy Fire Chief Ross went inside with the men operating the hose line and remained until the danger was past. Many of the hotel patrons left their rooms after receiving the warning. Lower corridors were permeated with smoke. The fire was discovered by Police Sergeant Dunn of the West Thirtieth street station.

NOT OF REVILLON FRERES.
Theodore Revillon, who obtained a judgment of \$21,400 for the payment of 500 shares in stock of Revillon Freres from Roy A. Denme in Supreme Court, Brooklyn, on Thursday, was not a member of Revillon Freres, as was stated in THE NEW YORK HERALD. He is a member of Theodore Revillon, Inc.

COURT FINDS SINGLE DRUNK IS NO CAUSE FOR DISCHARGE

Suit for Salary Under Contract Allowed Real Estate Broker—No Business Disgrace in Celebrating Culmination of Successful Deal.

A man is entitled to at least two "drunks" before he can be fired by his employer for intoxication in the opinion of the Appellate Term, Supreme Court. Justices Mullin and Whitaker voted in favor of that decision, but Justice Bijur held in a dissenting opinion that the employer was justified in discharging his employee for being intoxicated once.

Frederick W. Herbert brought an action against the Wood Dolson Company, real estate brokers, alleging that they had discharged him in violation of contract. They declared that the discharge was warranted by reason of his intoxication on one occasion. He sued in the City Court and his complaint was dismissed. The prevailing opinion of the Appellate Term reverses that judgment and orders a trial of his action for salary due under contract.

Said Justice Mullin: "I suppose it cannot be doubted that a single act of drunkenness would warrant the discharge of a locomotive engineer or the agent of a temperance society or anti-saloon league. However much a single act of drunkenness is to be deplored, the courts are not warranted in attempting to create and enforce a higher standard than that set by the average of mankind in the community. The day may come when intoxication will be such a cause for disgrace that a single instance of it will be sufficient to justify the discharge of a servant by his master, as a matter of law, regardless of the nature of the services or the effect of the act."

BENEDICT AFFIRMS FARES INJUNCTION

Justice Disputes Right of I. C. C. to Regulate Rail Rates Within the States.

Supreme Court Justice Benedict in Brooklyn yesterday rendered a decision continuing the temporary injunction issued by Justice Crosey to Attorney General Charles D. Newton restraining the Long Island Railroad and the Staten Island Rapid Transit Railroad from increasing their rates under the authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The proposed increases, as sanctioned by the commission, included 20 per cent. on passenger fares and milk and cream. The decision, which will be appealed, makes the injunction effective until the trial of the action for a permanent one is decided.

Justice Benedict stated that the case revealed "a drastic assertion of power on the part of the Federal Government." There seemed to be a danger now, he said, that State sovereignty will be "forgotten or lost in the enlarged but unconstitutional expansion of Federal control and power over matters which are clearly within the limits of State jurisdiction."

"If such a condition shall ever be brought about our entire system of constitutional government will be at an end, and upon the ruins of our States, will rise a centralized power which must inevitably merge either into absolutism on the one hand or into anarchy on the other, and the magnificent example and spectacle of a government of the people, by the people and for the people will perish from the earth."

The danger to State sovereignty, said Justice Benedict, might be ascribed to a number of causes arising within the last few years, such as the influx of "vast numbers of aliens without knowledge of or interest in our institutions" or dangerous tendencies on the part of higher officials "to disregard constitutional limitations upon autocratic power" or unusual conditions of administration resulting from the war. He added:

"To return, therefore, to the question which has been suggested whether Congress has the right to confer upon an administrative and not upon the judicial branch of the Federal Government power to control rates of fare of transportation companies operating within the State which has given it a charter, I believe that the question must be answered in the negative. Otherwise what becomes of State sovereignty? If the Congress can control intrastate railroad rates why may it not control and regulate rates to be charged for all public utilities or public commodities or by all corporations or individuals engaged in business which affects public interests, through the fiction that it affects interstate commerce—for example, such as coal, petroleum, gas, electric light, the telephone and telegraph? If can regulate rates of these commodities why may it not regulate the price of the labor which produces them or the various trades or manufactures which make use of them?"

ARMY PLANES GIVE UP SEARCH FOR BALLOON

Intense Cold Prevents Sustained Flights.

The army planes sent out with orders to search the Adirondacks for traces of the three naval Lieutenants of balloon A 5598, now missing ten days, gave up the search yesterday. It was intensely cold for flying, they said, and the motor which they could not make sustained flights. The fliers hopped off at Glen's Falls to return to Mineola, L. I., but ten minutes later returned with a broken engine and declared they would not attempt to return until morning. Yesterday afternoon the army men flew to Chesterton, a distance of thirty miles, when they were forced down.

Abandonment of this end of the search leaves Lieut. A. W. Evans, who was dispatched from the Rockaway naval air station to Ottawa, as the only active agent at work on the balloon mystery. He sent a message of a hopeful character from Ottawa yesterday expressing a belief that the balloon had been driven into a lake region and that probably the crew were in the hands of trappers or Indians and were waiting only upon their hosts and the weather to return to civilization.

KREISLER HELPS FUND.
Will Play at Dinner to Raise Hoover Relief Movement.

Fritz Kreisler will play on December 29 at the dinner at the Commodore arranged to raise a great fund for the European children's relief campaign, led by Herbert Hoover. The violinist has promised the committee that he and his wife will be present, and that his services are at the disposal of the committee. Gen. Pershing will preside. The menu will be the same that is supplied to children in the famine districts in Europe.

FRAUD IS CHARGED TO DOCTOR'S WIFE

Mrs. Ruth Ruickoldt Said by Police to Be Self-confessed Swindler.

ARRESTED AFTER RUSE

Dummy Package Used by Jewelry Firm Leads to Her Capture Here.

A woman who told the police that she was Mrs. Ruth Ruickoldt, the wife of Dr. Charles A. Ruickoldt, 709 Chapel street, New Haven, Conn., was arrested yesterday by Detective Sergeant Frank Cassassa of the West Thirtieth street station in the office of the Adams Express company in 52 Broadway and locked up at Police Headquarters on the charge of grand larceny.

The complaint is Mrs. Elma Sharp of Derby, Conn., who accuses Mrs. Ruickoldt of defrauding her of \$1,000. The prisoner also is accused of trying to defraud the jewelry firm of Stone & Berry of New London out of a diamond ring and a gold watch set with diamonds by using the name of Mrs. Alfred Mitchell, related to the Tiffany family and prominent in society in New London.

Mrs. Ruickoldt was arrested by Detective Cassassa when she went to the express office and claimed a package shipped to New York by Stone & Berry and addressed to Mrs. Mitchell.

The package, the detectives say, Mrs. Ruickoldt thought contained the ring and the gold watch sent to her at that package, but in reality it was a dummy package and a trap to catch the woman, who is alleged to have signed the name of Mrs. Mitchell to the receipt for it.

Confessed, Say Police.
When she was taken before Inspector Coughlin in the Detective Bureau at Police Headquarters Mrs. Ruickoldt insisted for two hours that she was really Mrs. Mitchell, but the police say she broke down and confessed when the police showed her reports from the Pinkerton Detective Agency to prove that Mrs. Mitchell was in Florida for the winter.

The police declare that Mrs. Ruickoldt admitted that some time ago she telephoned to the jewelry firm in New London, saying that she was Mrs. Mitchell, and ordering the diamond ring and the gold watch sent to her at that express office in New York. She also is accused of having told the jewelry firm to charge the two articles to Mrs. Mitchell's account.

During the work of preparing the ring and the watch some question arose concerning them, and a clerk was sent by the jewelry house to Mrs. Mitchell's New London home, where the police say, it was learned that Mrs. Mitchell was in Florida and that she had given no such order. The Pinkertons were then notified, and upon their instruction the dummy package was prepared and sent to New York and the New York police were notified.

The police also say that Mrs. Ruickoldt admitted that on December 2 she telephoned to Mrs. Elma Sharp in Derby, saying that she was Mrs. Sharp's cousin, Mrs. Charlotte E. Sharp of 290 Westminister street, Providence, R. I. According to the accusation against her, the prisoner told Mrs. Sharp that she was in trouble in New York and needed \$1,000, which Mrs. Sharp wired to the McAlpin Hotel at once.

Identified by Clerk.
The police say that this telegraphic order for the money was cashed by Mrs. Ruickoldt, who signed the name of Mrs. Charlotte E. Sharp on the receipt. She was identified at headquarters yesterday by the clerk of the Western Union Telegraph company, who paid her the money.

Mrs. Ruickoldt is also said by the police to have told them that she has been living at the Murray Hill Hotel under the name of Mrs. E. L. Porter and that she had stayed at the Commodore under the name of Mrs. Charlotte E. Sharp. Detectives who searched her room at the Murray Hill found dresses and lingerie valued at several thousand dollars, which they are trying to trace.

Mrs. Ruickoldt would give the police no reason for her actions. When she was asked why she had defrauded Mrs. Sharp and attempted to defraud Mrs. Mitchell she said:

"I was a very foolish woman. If my husband ever hears of this he will commit suicide."

New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Dec. 24.

Dr. Charles A. Ruickoldt, who is stopping at the Raleigh Hotel, learned of the arrest of his wife from a reporter for THE NEW YORK HERALD.

"I am utterly dumfounded and do not understand it," he said. "My wife had been here since early in December and I did not see her Monday, coming from Philadelphia. On Wednesday she had a telegram from Miss Anna Nevins, for whom she has been performing various services, asking her to come to New York. My wife told me she would return the next day. I gave her what money I had and since then have been waiting her return, watching every train. I do not know how to say about it and am nearly crazy with distress."

Dr. Ruickoldt said that the Miss Nevins he spoke of, whose address he was unable to give, was a cousin of Mrs. Mitchell, one of those whom Mrs. Ruickoldt is charged with impersonating, and that Mrs. Mitchell was his friend. He said he knew of no Mrs. Sharp of Derby, but that he did know a Mrs. Sharp of Providence, R. I.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 24.—Mrs. Ruth Ruickoldt and her husband, Dr. Charles Arthur Ruickoldt, have figured in law suits for four years past. Dr. Ruickoldt's father, once among the best known physicians here, accumulated considerable wealth and in his last days was cared for by E. S. Ruickoldt, a court clerk, as conservator. The latter turned the sons out of their father's house and after the senior Ruickoldt died he sued them and got judgment against one.

It is claimed, Dr. Charles Ruickoldt and his wife patronized tradesmen liberally, but did not pay bills and suits were begun in courts. Recently a judgment was given in one case. A Deputy Sheriff, who tried to serve the papers on the couple, claimed he found a menagerie in their apartments. Mrs. Ruickoldt some months since claimed she had been left a large sum of money by a friend who had died in England and had been expecting to go to England to look up the estate.

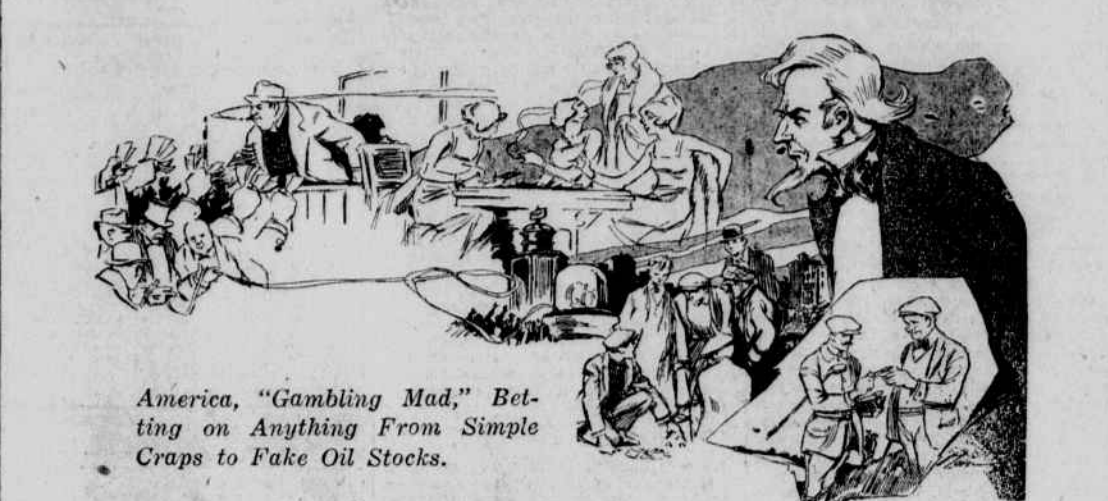
TO ALTER PLYMOUTH CHURCH.
Trustees, Though, Will Preserve Historic Features.

Extensive alterations and repairs are planned by the trustees of Plymouth Church as a result of the recent fire, which caused damage estimated at \$100,000. William H. Gompert, an architect, will take charge of the alterations, with the understanding that none of the portions of the building that bear evidence of historic happenings and associations should be disturbed.

Plans for certain modifications in the church building have been forming in the mind of Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, the pastor, and many of these will be carried into effect.

\$2,000,000,000

Lost in Gambling Every Year

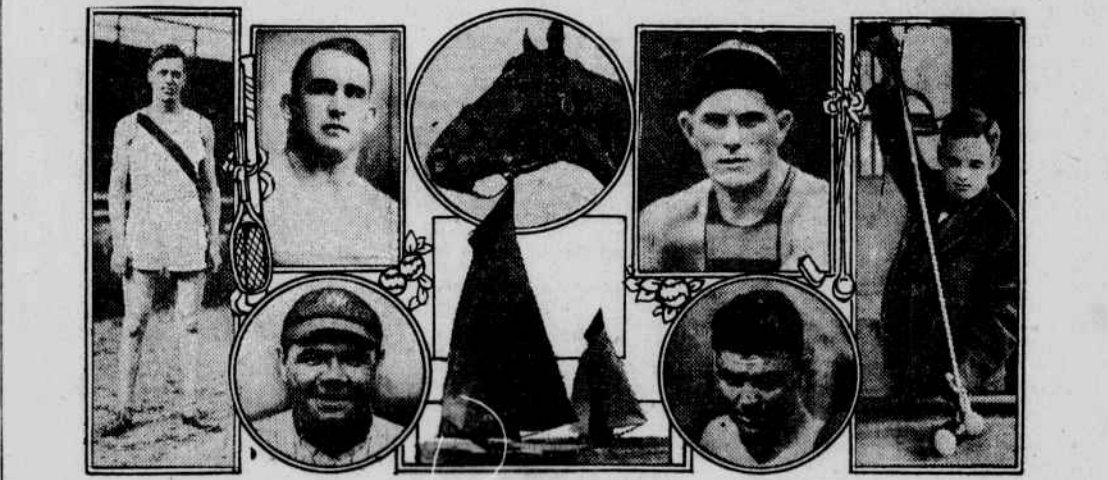


America, "Gambling Mad," Betting on Anything From Simple Craps to Fake Oil Stocks.

TO-MORROW'S HERALD

Then, every red blooded American will want to read and keep

The New York Herald's Annual Sport Review



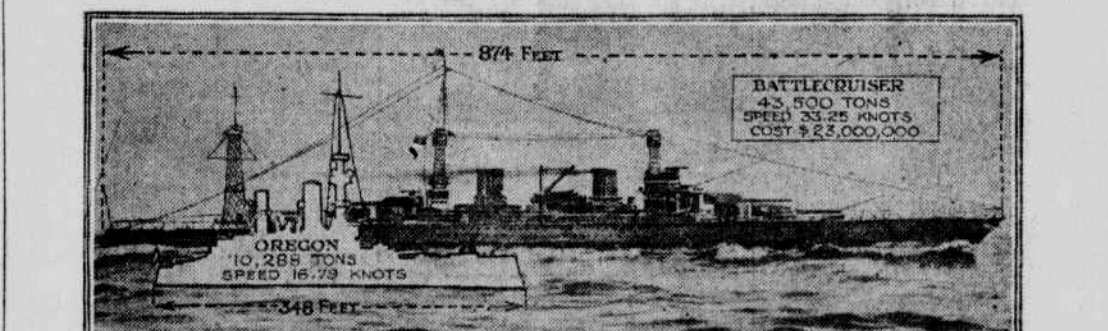
Just a Glimpse at What You May Expect to See Next Sunday

The year 1920 saw America go ahead in every department of sport.

A detailed review of each department will be another Sunday Herald feature.

And of course you will want to know all about America's record breaking naval programme—how Uncle Sam is building

Six Battle Cruisers to Cost \$23,000,000 Each



Latest U. S. Battle Cruiser Compared With the Battleship Oregon.

You should not miss reading about these wonderful fighting machines now building, which outclass any naval unit anywhere.

Another interesting Sunday Herald Article will explain why

Would-Be Mary Pickfords Face Bitter Disappointment



Long Line of Applicants for Motion Picture Jobs.

An investigation shows that screen struck girls have little chance to become cinema headliners unless unusual talent is demonstrated at start.

Aside from the foregoing and many other articles of more than passing interest there will be published

A Historical Review of World Happenings for 1920,

TO-MORROW in the

NEW YORK HERALD

(Ask your newsdealer to save you a copy)